

# INSIDE THIS WEEK

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**JUSTICE FOR MUMIA IS FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL**

PHILADELPHIA—More than 1,000 participants from all over the world will hear the most comprehensive review of all aspects of the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal at the People's International Tribunal for Justice held this past weekend.

The tribunal presented eyewitness testimony, written reports and video footage. "The fact that people are coming to the event from around the country on chartered buses and in car caravans shows that the groundwork of support for a new and fair trial for Mumia continues to grow," said Pam Africa, spokesperson for the International Tribunal.

## ORDINANCE STOPS WATER SERVICE SHUT OFF

NEWARK—Members of the City Council have substituted a resolution for an ordinance that would prevent the Department of Water and Sewer/Utility from shutting off a customer's service on weekends or holidays.

"My constituents have been complaining that they have had their water shut off during the weekend or on a holiday, when it is impossible to go to pay the bill and have your service restored," said Councilman Ronald Rice. Residents should note that their water service may be discontinued for a number of reasons, including unpaid bills, willful water waste or meter tampering.

## TAWANA BRAWLEY SAYS HOAX WAS PULLED ON THE PUBLIC

NEW YORK—Tawana Brawley stuck to her story that she was kidnapped and raped by white attackers during a brief speech in a Brooklyn church on the eve of opening arguments in a \$150 million defamation lawsuit against three men who had advised her in the case. C. Vernon Watson, Vernon Maddox and the Reverend Al Sharpton.

After breaking a decade-long silence, Brawley, 24, reportedly lives in Washington, D.C., blamed white reporters for painting her as a liar. "For 10 years, they've been lying to me," she said. "They know something happened and they know who did it."

## WINNIE DENIES CHARGES WHILE BODYGUARD TURNS AGAINST HER

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—The former wife of the President of South Africa, Winnie Mandela, denied charges of accusations that she was the mastermind of a terror campaign "lunacy" during testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, and was later embraced by the mother of one of her alleged victims.

Just before her testimony, Jerry Richardson, the man who is serving a life sentence for the killing of 14-year-old Stompie Sepele, took the stand against Mandela's lawyer to testify that she ordered the killing.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN IN LINE FOR TOP CORRECTIONS POST

TRENTON—One of five people under consideration to assume the duties of New Jersey's Prison Commissioner is Margaret Moore, currently the director of the Washington, D.C. prison system.

Described as tough, no-nonsense, and a "superstar" in the world of prison management, one source close to Governor Whitman said that naming Moore commissioner would send a message through the State Corrections department. "She's a woman, she's African-American. She's the opposite of the good old boy system," said one source. "She's the opposite of everything corrections has stood for."

# Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

## Reverse bias suit settlement debated

By Kendall Wilson

Affirmative action advocates and opponents are offering mixed reviews over the high-profile case settled by the Piscataway, N.J. school board with Sharon Taxman, a white teacher who claimed she was laid off in violation of her civil rights.

On Thursday, November 20, the school board decided it would not appeal Taxman's case before the U.S. Supreme Court and voted 5 to 3 to settle the \$443,500 suit. On December 4 the Supreme Court dismissed the suit altogether.

The move came after the Black Leadership Forum (BLF) an alliance of civil rights groups that includes the National Newspaper Publishers

Association (NPPA), agreed to pay 70 percent of the settlement.

The board decided to take this action because they believed the nation's highest court has grown increasingly hostile to race-based policies in recent years, and that the court was expected to yield a major ruling on affirmative action in the process.

Taxman was laid off from her teaching position in the business department in 1989, while Debra Williams, a Black teacher, was retained. Both were hired the same day and were considered equally qualified by the school board, but while Taxman had more teaching experience, Williams held the superior academic credentials with a master's degree.

Taxman, 50, said she was "glad" the case was over, and called the settlement "kind of anti-climactic."

Williams, in tears after the confirmation of the settlement, still insisted she was far more qualified than Taxman and contended that having an advanced degree apparently meant nothing "but a slap in the face."

Meanwhile, advocates and opponents of affirmative action read different messages into the settlement.

"The great debate on affirmative action will go on in Congress, the states and the lower courts because affirmative action is legal," said Kathy Rogers, executive director of the National Organization of

Women's (NOW) Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "It works, it's necessary and it's fair."

"This settlement demonstrates the panic within the civil rights establishment," said Clint Bolick of the conservative Institute for Justice in Washington. "This could have been a knockout blow for racial preferences."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who helped to raise some of the money in the settlement, described the case as one "padded with problems."

"The Black teacher has a master's degree and the White teacher didn't," said Jackson. "So, they are not equals academically. This case would have been distortion of the issue."

Taxman's attorney, Steven Klausner, said it was obvious to him that "they (civil rights groups) were afraid that affirmative action might be very damaging."

But NAACP President Kweisi agreed with Jackson about the damage that the "distortion" of the facts could have brought to the fight to maintain affirmative action.

"Distorted facts make for distorted laws," he said. "It was in the best interests of the nation that the future of affirmative action be based on a clearly articulated record and not on a case that the extreme right wing has distorted and defined as something else."

—Special to the NJPA from The Philadelphia Tribune

## Students get insight into the business world



**A day out on the city**—As part of the Algebra Project, this group of sixth graders from Plainfield's Evergreen School toured Newark's business district during a recent field trip. Among the places they visited were PSE&G, Seaton Hall Law School, NJPAC and Washington Park. The instructors for this group are Mr. Asante and Mrs. Oliver. Photo by Kim Reynolds

## College Task Force grapples with ways to keep our best students

By g.r. mattox

The subjects of educational availability, student retention and low enrollment in certain academic majors are areas currently under review by the Blue-Ribbon Task Force on the Capacity on New Jersey's Higher Education System.

The task force recently completed the second of three public hearings to provide an opportunity for the higher education community and the public to offer feedback on draft recommendations made earlier this year.

One of these recommendations was the concern for the delivery of services where students need them most, and to areas of the state that should be better served by existing institutions. Dr. Henry C. Johnson, Publisher of City News and a member

of the Task Force said, "We are looking at how we accommodate those areas where there seems to be a demand for a baccalaureate degree."

Dr. Johnson noted that there are areas of the state that would greatly benefit by a partnership between the local community college and major institutions like Rutgers, Jersey City State, and Newark College of Engineering (NJIT). A successful example is the current partnership between Burlington County College and NJIT. "New Jersey does not need to build another college—we have enough bricks and mortar," Dr. Johnson observed. "Our higher education resources in this state would be better served by better deploying what we have."

The task force also tackled the problems of low enrollment in several major courses, and how to retain the

state's best and brightest. Dr. Johnson noted that New Jersey colleges bring in few out-of-state students and that many N.J. students leave the state for college. "The students with the top SAT scores are leaving the state for other top colleges." In addition to retaining the top students, Dr. Johnson says the system should develop strategies to make higher education attractive to out-of-state students.

The task force has also recommended that the state's higher education system justify offering academic majors with low enrollments. This poses a problem in that, while there may be few students taking a particular course as a major, it may have a larger enrollment because of students satisfying basic course requirements, low enrollment in some courses may be due to new programs that have not had a chance to build a base.

## Commentary:

### A Long Way From Piscataway

PISCATAWAY—The great generals always fought their epic battles on ground of their own choosing, they never let the enemy decide the battleground.

That's the principle the civil rights community applied last week in the Piscataway case, which had been mistakenly (but not maliciously) characterized in the media as a test case for "reverse discrimination."

The issue was never as clearcut as the media made it, but one thing was very clear—this was not the case the civil rights community would have chosen to carry the affirmative action case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

That's why the Black Leadership Forum, an alliance of major civil rights groups, offered to pay 70 percent of the settlement fees, so that the school board would settle the case before it came before the Supreme Court next year.

As Kweisi Mofe, President of the NAACP, told the Associated Press, it was in the best interests of the nation that the future of affirmative action be based on a clearly articulated record, and not on a case that the extreme right wing has distorted and defined as something other than what it is.

Reverend Jackson, Founder and President of the Rainbow/PUSH coalition agreed: "This case would have been a distortion of the issue. We outflanked them because we took this whole thing out of court."

Hugh Price, President of the Human League, noted it won't be easy, but we need to make sure the fairest and strongest case possible is laid out to the Court. This wasn't the right case."

Both sides involved were hired the same day. The African American woman had a Masters Degree; the white woman had two years of experience teaching business. The school board rated both teachers equally qualified, but when forced to hire a teacher in 1989, the school board chose to retain the African American woman, because they wanted diversity on their high school faculty. A recent study given to the student body is 30 percent African American.

The courts, however, did not agree. Given the makeup of the Supreme Court, the civil rights community made the judgment to find a better vehicle for what could be a decisive decision on affirmative action.

## Min. Farrakhan leaves on 50-nation Friendship Tour

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Black America's most controversial and popular Muslim was given a warm send-off November 28, during a rally at the U.S. Capitol.

Union Temple Baptist Church, where some 3,000 Muslims, Christians, Black nationalists and leaders of organizations came to wish him well as he embarks on a 50-nation World Friendship Tour.

At the celebration, Minister Farrakhan discussed his Third World Friendship Tour and the reasons for it: "It is time for Blacks in America to get involved in 'international affairs' to lead a world gone off course back to peace," he said.

Most of the Minister's 90-minute lecture was spent detailing his hopes that the tour would help bring peace to a world engulfed in conflict and yield trade, cultural and intellectual relationships for the Black community.

"That area is so critical to world peace that if we break out there it may bring the whole earth into the South Korea," the former Soviet Union and nations in the South Pacific, the Caribbean and South America.

"I would like to demonstrate how the U.S. and friendly relations should be carried out," Min. Farrakhan said, explaining how the U.S. and other world governments have strayed from the path to peace.

The U.S. government is making "a grave mistake" in its dealing with Iraq and the Arab and Muslim world. Increasingly bad U.S. foreign policy toward Muslim nations, namely Iraq and Libya, could bring "grave consequences" to the U.S., he said.

The Minister also pointed out the double standard in the way the U.S. is dealing with Arab governments as opposed to European governments.

"The Cold War is over so America wants to help Russia," Minister Farrakhan noted. "The war with Iraq has been over nearly seven years and seven years after the war is over, nearly a million and a half Iraqis have died," but no help has come from the U.S., he said.

"The war has continued in the name of sanctions. What's the problem America?... Well we have a mad man over there, Saddam Hussein and he is making weapons of mass destruction."

The Iraqi president "can hide weapons for seven years, but he can't even fix an incubator in a hospital!" asked Min. Farrakhan.

"When it becomes policy to destroy, the American people's minds are prepared so that you can go along with the policy. They want to visit and pray at the mosque, and he is making weapons of mass destruction."

During his tour, Minister Farrakhan plans to answer an invitation extended by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Sheikh Mohammed Al-Jamal Al Rifai, the Resident Imam at Al-Azhar Mosque in Jerusalem. The Minister was invited to visit and pray at the mosque, the third holiest shrine in Islam.

But Minister Farrakhan stressed the role of peacemaker is not his alone. He said he is "calling on the American people to play an important role in world affairs," he said. "You are chosen of God really to bring about complete change in this country."

Photo by Louis Farrakhan

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Photo by Louis Farrakhan

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# Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**PLAINFIELD**—The annual "Christmas Miniatures" exhibit will be held at Plainfield's Swain Galleries from 5 - 7 p.m. For more info, call 908-756-1707.

**PLAINFIELD**—Neighborhood Empowerment meeting held at the Plainfield Public Library at 2 p.m. For more info, call Nicole 908-753-5391.

**NEWARK**—The making of a multi-cultural center workshop will be held from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. at The Newark Club, 32nd Fl. For more info, call 973-242-6237, ext. 225.

**CRANFORD**—The annual holiday boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Noranage Bldg. Halfway at Cranford College. For more info, call 908-706-7574.

**MOUNTAINSIDE**—New toys and clothing for infants through teenagers are being accepted at Children's Developmental Hospital. For more info, call 908-233-3720.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**EDISON**—The NAACP invites you to attend its free annual Kwanzaa celebration at 7 p.m. For more info, call 908-205-9888.

**EDISON**—The NAACP will hold a general meeting at Edison Job Corp at 7 p.m. For more info, call 732-203-9888.

**NEWARK**—The International Youth Organization is sponsoring its first Awards Luncheon and Fund Raiser at 12 noon at the Robert Treat Hotel. For more info, call 201-621-1100.

**PLAINFIELD**—A tutor meeting will be held for the literacy volunteers of America at Plainfield Public Library at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more info, call 908-755-7998.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

**MONTCLAIR**—A Christmas carol will be held at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 908-655-6112.

**EAST RUTHERFORD**—The 16th annual Toys for Tots collection will be held at 7:35 p.m. when the Devils host the Montreal Canadiens at the Continental Airlines Arena. For more info, call 201-933-6050.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**PLAINFIELD**—You are invited to the annual holiday and gift show at the Plainfield Armory through the 14th, featuring India Bazaar of Plainfield. Free admission and parking available. For more info, call 201-434-1584.

**PLAINFIELD**—Ride the train with Santa, from Netherlands in Plainfield,

11 a.m. For more info, call 908-757-7100.

**NEWARK**—The National Theatre of the Deaf presents "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't" by Ogden Nash in Billy Johnson Auditorium, Newark Museum. For more info, call 973-596-6550.

**PLAINFIELD**—The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield will provide a year-end medieval dinner and revelry 7 p.m. at 724 Park Ave. for more info, call 908-322-4897.

**PLAINFIELD**—Muhammad Mosque #80-A presents a free Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Elmwood Gardens Housing Complex Recreation Room. For more info, call 908-754-8694.

**PLAINFIELD**—Holiday and Kwanzaa storytelling will be held at Plainfield Public Library in the Young People's room by Ruth Blake. For more info, call 908-757-2205.

**NEW YORK**—Celebrate the Christmas and Kwanzaa holiday at the Holiday Open House held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. For more info, call 212-491-2206.

**PLAINFIELD**—Reduce auto insurance costs by taking a defensive driving course 9 a.m. at the Plainfield Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. For more info, call 908-756-6414.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

**WAYNE**—A Lazar Vaudeville Christmas: a spectacular holiday show combining high-tech lights will be presented 3 p.m. at William Paterson University. For more info, call 908-720-2371.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

**CLARK**—A workshop entitled "Legal Aspects of Divorce" will be held 7 p.m. at the Clark Public Library in the Ayers community room. For more info, call 732-388-5999.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

**PLAINFIELD**—The Athlete's community corporation will hold a reception 7 p.m. at Plainfield Public Library. For more info, call Jeff Blanchard at 908-235-1858.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

**PLAINFIELD**—Congressman Bob Franks will give a FCC presentation to schools and libraries on upcoming E-rate policy at 9 a.m. For more info, call Barbara Ballard at 732-602-0075.

## Coors employee 'Minority Business Advocate of the Year'



Helen Tanner

**GOLDEN, Colo.**—Helen Tanner, Coors Brewing Company's Corporate Relations logistic spe-

cialist, has been named "Advocate of the Year" by Minority Enterprise & Educational Development (MEED), a Denver-based, minority business advocacy organization. The award was presented during the organization's 15th annual MEED Week, an event saluting minority- and women-owned firms. Activities during the week included trade fairs and networking events, and the awarding of scholarships to elementary, middle and high school students.

Tanner manages strategic planning and execution of corporate programs for diverse markets. Her work with various organizations and community groups has helped generate broad-based community involvement for Coors through corporate sponsorships and in-market program, execution.

"Helen exemplifies true commitment to promoting minority business success," said Sara Fuentes, president of the MEED Week Coordinating Council. "She is most deserving of this award."

## 10,000 Mentors finds new executive director

**NEWARK**—Vesta M. Godwin has been named executive director of 10,000 Mentors, the largest and fastest growing mentoring program in New Jersey. In her new position, Godwin will oversee and coordinate programs and recruit mentors.

Godwin stated, "I am eager to use my years of experience to help recruit 10,000 dedicated mentors for 10,000 children in Newark. Together with our team of hard working staff, board members and volunteers, I am certain we can make this goal a reality."

The former executive director of Jersey Cares, Inc. in Morrisville, Godwin also served as a Division Director at the North Jersey Chapter of the March of Dimes.

Godwin has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Outstanding Young Woman of America, Zeta Phi Beta International President's Dove Award, and Outstanding State Director Award. She is also an Ambassador to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Saul Cooperman, president of 10,000 Mentors, commended Godwin's



Vesta M. Godwin

experience and achievements, saying, "We are delighted that a person of Vesta's knowledge, commitment and energy has joined our staff. It will surely help further our recruitment efforts and successes."

## Anheuser employees honored as New Jersey Black Achievers

**NEWARK**—Counselors, tutors, friends and role models. These were some of the words that were used to describe the men and women recently honored as New Jersey's 1997 Black Achievers. Among the award recipients recognized at the annual banquet were Anthony Jackson, at second left, and Bobbie Smith, at second right, of Anheuser-Busch's Newark Brewery. Congratulating Jackson and Smith for their commitment to mentoring New Jersey-area high school students are, from left, Steve McCormick, manager of the Anheuser-Busch brewery; Elaine Nicholson, community programs director of the Newark YM/YWCA; and Hans Stallmann, brewmaster, Anheuser-Busch Newark plant.



## Seniors urged to 'Get the Flu shot, not the Flu'



**LIVINGSTON**—The Peer Review Organization of New Jersey (The PRO) and the Newark Department of Health and Human Services have selected Jeramias Murillo, MD, as Chairman of the Newark Fight the Flu campaign. Murillo currently serves as President of the Infectious Diseases Society of New Jersey and Director of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. With Murillo is Walter Fiedler, right, CEO of Fields Communications, Ltd., following a campaign committee meeting.

The committee is responsible for coordinating the participation of health care providers who are giving flu shots at the campaign's church-based flu shot centers in the fall. The Newark Fight the Flu campaign is a joint initia-

Peer Review Organization of New Jersey (The PRO), a non-profit, independent health care facility.

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# NATIONAL BRIEFS

CFA Promotes Africa Trade

WASHINGTON—The Consistency for Africa (CFA) is making an urgent appeal to African American organizations and leadership to support the Africa Trade Legislation (H.R. 1432), sponsored by Congressman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Phil Crane (R-IL) and Jim McDermott (D-WA). When congress went into recess in late November the Africa trade bill was tabled without final debate. The Republican leadership attempted to trade passage of the Africa trade bill for the passage of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) on fast-track legislation, say CFA supports. The group further suggests that it is now highly possible that in an upcoming election cycle the bill may never resurface for a vote, despite the relatively strong bipartisan support it enjoys. Melvin Foy, executive director of CFA, now thinks the prime hope for passage of a trade bill with Africa now rests with the leadership of the African-American community. "Despite the fact that this provides a great opportunity especially for African-American entrepreneurs, there was no consistent pressure for its passage by the African-American business community. Speaking, other ethnic groups in America are wondering why they should be concerned about African issues if African Americans are not showing concern," he emphasized.

Department of Commerce, IBM Join Forces to Aid Small Businesses

WASHINGTON—The United States Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and IBM have teamed up to form a public/private sector partnership to promote opportunities and growth with the small business community through information technology. Under the arrangement, IBM will provide technology-related services, solutions, product offerings and partnership opportunities to MBDA's clients, which include nearly 30,000 minority-owned businesses. These represent the Asian, African-American, Hispanic and Native American business communities. The program will be supported by MBDA through its national network of regional MBDA offices and offices and more than 60 local Business Development Centers (BDCs). Through this program MBDA will disseminate information to MBDA offices and how small business can use technology to maximize their competitiveness in both national and international markets.

CDC Report: Care During Pregnancy Key to Saving Women's Lives

WASHINGTON—In the report, "Special Focus: Surveillance for Reproductive Health," scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document that on average an African-American woman dies every two and a half days in the U.S. from pregnancy-related causes and many could be saved by regular checkups during pregnancy. African-American women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women and the discrepancy has increased. Yet a four-year study of pregnant women found that even a small amount of medical care during pregnancy can save a woman's life. In addition to 900 women under 35 years and older women who have three or more children and unmarried women are also at greater risk. The CDC report also highlights that fewer abortions are being performed in the U.S. although African-American women are more likely to have abortions than White women. For every 1,000 African-American women, 40 had an abortion in 1994 compared to 13 White women for every 1,000.

OAU Launches Education Decade in Africa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (PANA) — The OAU has launched the "Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006)," aimed at strengthening the continent to cope with the realities of the 21st century. It was launched by Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Abdulla at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The ceremony was attended by education ministers of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Eritrea. During the ceremony, ministers of Ghana and Zimbabwe as well as African ambassadors accredited to the continental body, Salim, announced the decade provides yet another opportunity for member states to recommit themselves to the objective of promoting education as the essential education for all. The decade is meant "for equipping the African society to cope with the realities and conditions of the 21st century: a society where ignorance, poverty, disease and conflicts are outlawed," he said. In a message, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said the decade should be one of change in education in Africa and the integration of academic training with technological knowledge and advancement.

—Githin Hagos

# Americans seek to hold a nationwide conversation on race

WASHINGTON, DC—This January we will do more than celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. We will honor it, said former Senator Bill Bradley and Los Angeles City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas as they launched the National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations—an unprecedented effort bringing together tens of thousands of Americans in dozens of cities across the country to talk about race.

Set against the backdrop of the President's call for a national conversation on race, the National Days of Dialogue (NDDO) is the only nationwide grass-roots effort of its kind. Thousands of dialogues are being held nationwide, including concentrated efforts in more than twenty cities. In addition, the University of Southern California will take the lead in promoting dialogue on college campuses.

Emerging from the successful inter-racial dialogues held in Southern California following the Rodney King and O.J. Simpson trials, the National Days of Dialogue will be held nationwide from January 14-19. Average citizens will meet in churches, synagogues, boardrooms, living rooms, and community centers to discuss race relations from a personal perspective. However, these conversations are not intended to be an end point, but a first step in an ongoing effort. Following this historic week, organizers will share results, develop action projects, and encourage ongoing dialogue.

"The National Days of Dialogue seek to inspire millions of Americans to engage in open, honest, and sometimes uncomfortable, conversation about who we are as a nation, and who we are as individuals," said Bradley, NDDO Co-Chairperson. "How will we ever meet Dr. King's dream of judging our fellow Americans' not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character? If we don't talk to people different from ourselves? If we are to improve race relations in this country, we must do it person-to-person."

"This effort is about people," said Ridley-Thomas, NDDO Co-Chairperson. "While laws and programs are important, they are not enough. We should seek to share our lives, our work, and our schools with people of different backgrounds, not because there is a requirement that requires it, but because our lives will be

enriched because of it. As people, we should treasure our different cultures as gifts, not use them as shields."

Members of Congress recently expressed their support for the National Days of Dialogue, introducing a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives commending the initiative. Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) and Arno Houghton (R-NY), co-chairs of the Faith and Politics Institute, are leading the effort to encourage members of Congress to become involved.

John Lewis, a long-time civil rights advocate and a friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "It is fitting and appropriate to have a national dialogue a week of tributes to a determined and remarkable fighter for civil rights. Dr. King often spoke of the beloved community—a truly inter-racial democracy that is diverse and tolerant. It is my great hope that communities around the nation will engage in dialogue to reconcile our differences and build a beloved community."

The National Days of Dialogue were created to strengthen inter-racial dialogue efforts that already exist; improve relationships between key

community centers to discuss race relations from a personal perspective.

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community centers to discuss race relations from a personal perspective.

leaders of different races and ethnicities; generate ideas for specific action projects; and involve more citizens in ongoing cooperative efforts.

Whether you live in a town of 1,000 or a city of one million you can help your community by replacing stereotypes with understanding," said Jane Healey, a Dallas organizer. "In Dallas, we already have had a lot of interest from people—many believe it is time to hear each other's stories. By talking candidly, we can begin to bridge differences and find ways to work together."

"History has taught us that a divided country is a weakened country. In coming century, people of more than one hundred different backgrounds will call themselves Americans," said Bradley. "Our prosperity depends on our compassion and understanding of one another. Diversity is our greatest strength."

Anyone interested in organizing a dialogue in their community should write The National Days of Dialogue at 1322 18th Street, NW, Suite 26, Washington, DC 20036, call (202) 822-6343, fax (202) 822-9828, or e-mail Daysdays@aol.com.

# Dr. John Hope Franklin featured at National Council of Negro Women Convention

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dr. John Hope Franklin, Chairman of the White House Commission on Race, participated in the Town Hall Meeting, "Race Matter," held recently during the National Council of Negro Women Inc. 48th National Convention.

Dr. Franklin engaged in a frank dialogue and discussion on race with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Donna Christian Green (D-U.S. VI), and Attorney Barbara Amoruso. President of the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights. With a backdrop of crucial economic, health, educational and civil rights issues affecting African-American women, pending legislation around the House and the U.S. Congress, NCNW focused the Nation on race and these issues.

Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President/CEO of NCNW, building on forty years of service to the organization and to America stated, "Our women are preoccupied around the theme, 'Taking Charge of Change: Affirming Our Values.' Together, we will develop national strategies for grassroots results. Equally important is our on-going mission to nurture the African American girl child and prepare her to emerge as a preeminent leader for the new millennium."

NCNW's Convention was held from December 6-10. A special feature was a live nationwide teleconference event, "Coming To The Table," connecting African American Women in over 100 cities across America to focus the nation on Welfare to Work, Racism, Preparing our Youth for Leadership and Building Global Linkages.

In addition to Dr. Franklin, the list of additional confirmed speakers for the Convention to date include: Retired General Colin Powell, Dr. Robert Goodwin, President, Points of Light Foundation, Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman, Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, Dr. Johnetta Cole, former president of Southern University, Dr. Nana Sarkaria, President, Lincoln University, Dr. Maya Angelou, Dr. Camille Cosby, economist Julianne Malveaux, Essence Editor Susan Taylor, Rev. Deborah Carpenter and popular entertainer, Gladys Knight.

Through its national affiliate organizations and 250 community-based, the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) has an outreach to four million women. Founded by Mary McLeod Bethune in 1935, NCNW is a voluntary non-profit membership organization helping women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and the community.

# Black farmers face CR\$S\$

By Sister LaRue Muhammad

The plight of black farmers is worsening. The increased incidence of black farmers that are unable to continue working their land could result in increased difficulty in obtaining and affording an adequate quality of food in the black community as a whole. Through information technology, we need to adopt at least one black farmer to aid them in their work. Dr. Ridgley Muhammad, Manager of Muhammad Farms for the Nation of Islam, recently visited the city of Plainfield to speak about the importance of agriculture and the plight of the black farmer. The event was held at the Neighborhood House of Plainfield, was to raise the level of consciousness for black people toward agriculture. The dinner and lecture proceeds will benefit the Muhammad Farm and the three-year economic program established by the Nation of Islam.

Dr. Ridgley Muhammad earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics and has successfully established a productive farm program for the Nation of

Islam. In a recent article in The Final Call, he said, "We have outgrown our food supply and outlived our usefulness to our former slave masters. We are a landless group of former slaves with the appetite of the wealthy."

He continues, "We, the people from Africa who brought the world civilization now feel safe and privileged to live on concrete while amassing an 'Afro-centric worldview.' You may be able to fry an egg on concrete in the summer, but you sure can't grow food on it. The Nation of Islam, 18,000 black farmers left in America. Do you know of any?"

The East Coast Regional Farm Conference, Bro. Willie Muhammad, recently attended a farm meeting in Georgia which lead to Dr. Ridgley's visit to the city. Dr. Ridgley delivered a lecture to a crowd of approximately 150 people complete with transparent slides of the Earth's surface and its productivity. He scientifically mapped out the land and it's measure of farming success according to the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Dr. Ridgley also spoke about the different types of pesticides that are used



Members of the Nation (left, from left to right, Dr. Ridgley Muhammad, Sister LaRue Muhammad, Bro. Mustapha Muhammad).

in treating crops that cause certain types of insects like bowvels to die instantly, stating that if it has that type of effect on insects, certainly it has a harmful effect on humans.

A major point of Dr. Ridgley's address was the rate in which Blacks are losing farm land today citing that Blacks once owned about 16 million acres of farm land (before the turn of the century) and now only 2.5 million

acres and they are losing 1,000 acres a day.

For more information regarding how to support the activities of the Muhammad Farms and the three-year economic program established by the Nation of Islam, call Muhammad's Mosque # 80, at 908-754-3272.

Kai Niyonu contributed to this article

# Nationwide study shows race and gender differences in incidence of "Academic Disidentification"

"African American males more likely than any other group to lose motivation to succeed in school by twelfth grade

WASHINGTON—African American boys, compared with White, Hispanic, and African American girls, are "particularly and perhaps uniquely" vulnerable to "academic disidentification," the phenomenon in which success or failure in school causes to matter to the student. The finding comes from a four-year study involving 25,000 high school students across the United States and is reported in the December issue of the Journal of Educational Psychology, published by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The study, by doctoral candidate Jason W. Osborne, MA, of the State University of New York at Buffalo, supports some (but not all) of the theories of Stanford University psychologist Claude M. Steele, Ph.D., who first proposed the concept of academic disidentification as a form of self-defense against expectations of poor academic performance.

Data for the study were drawn from the ongoing National Education Longitudinal Study, which was begun in 1988 and has been following nearly 25,000 students since the eighth grade. The students' grades, level of academic achievement and level of overall self-esteem were measured when they were in the eighth grade, in the 10th grade and again in the 12th grade. According to the author, the correlations between self-esteem and achievement scores and self-esteem

and grades provided a measure of the students' degree of academic disidentification or disidentification: self-esteem rising or falling with grades and achievement scores would indicate stronger academic identification; self-esteem remaining the same despite rising or falling with grades and achievement scores would indicate weaker academic identification.

Over the course of the study, there were few substantial changes in the relationship between self-esteem and achievement scores, except for African American boys. For this group, these correlations declined dramatically.

Looking at the correlations between grades and self-esteem, all groups except for Hispanic girls showed decreasing correlations between 10th and 12th grades. "However," Osborne says, "only African American boys' correlations showed a dramatic and significant decrease over time, dropping from highly significant—and the equivalent in magnitude to the other groups—at eighth grade to not significantly different from zero by 12th grade."

While Osborne's findings support Dr. Steele's theories as they apply to African American males, there was little support for his idea that African American girls are similarly affected and even less to support the idea that others from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, such as Hispanic — would also tend to disidentify with academics. There was also no evidence that girls disidentified in traditionally male content areas such as math and science.

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# BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**SOMERSET**—Join us for our 77th annual luncheon and network from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more info, call 908-725-1552.

**JERSEY CITY**—A business card exchange will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Casa Gracia Restaurant. For more info, call 201-438-0161.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—A free SBA community assistance seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the City of New Brunswick Elks Lodge. For more info, call 732-745-5050.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

**UNION**—Technical Training Programs - Strategies for Successful Market Planning - is offered from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Union County Economic Development Corporation. To register, call 908-527-1166.

**SOUTH ORANGE**—Seton Hall University will have an executive seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more info, call 973-734-1777.

**ORANGE**—A free SBA community assistance seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at City Hall. For more info, call 973-266-4012.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**NORTH BRANCH**—Intermediate Word 7.0 for Windows 95 course will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at The Institute for Business and Professional Development. For more info, call 505-218-4877.

## MBA students learn to think globally

MONTCLAIR.—They're not quite ready to set up shop in China, but for eight Montclair State University business graduate students, this past summer's Study Abroad trip helped provided them with an up-close look at the economic and cultural environment in the world's largest market.

The students spent ten days in China. While there, they visited four Chinese businesses: a manufacturer of electronic instruments, a carpet factory, a steel plant and a state cooperative producing a variety of goods and services. Students also attended a three-day conference on strengthening business relationships with China co-sponsored by Montclair State and Beijing's University of International Business and Economics (UIBE).

MSU President Dr. Irvin D. Reid was a keynote speaker at the conference. "They came home with complete different views of the world," he said. "The students went with, said Dr. Suresh Pradhan, a professor of International Business at MSU who taught the summer course. "I thought because it was a Communist country, they would be restricted and that businesses operating there would be restricted. They found they could

## Saving and investing not the same thing

ELIZABETH.—Many people use the words "saving" and "investing" interchangeably to describe places where they put their money. They might say, for example, "I'm saving for retirement in a mutual fund" or "I just invested \$3,000 in a CD."

Although there has definitely been a "blurring of the lines" between financial products in recent years with deregulation, there are still distinct differences between saving and investing. The purposes and characteristics of each are reviewed below, along with tips for making the transition from "saver" to "investor."

Savings provide funds for emergenc-

ies and for making specific purchases in the relatively near future (often within three years). The primary goal of savings is to store funds and keep them safe. This is why savings are generally placed in interest-bearing accounts that are safe (such as those insured or guaranteed by the federal government) and liquid (those in the form of cash or easily changed into cash on short notice with minimal or no loss). Examples of savings products include bank passbooks and money market deposit accounts, short-term CDs, and money market mutual funds.

The downside is that savings products generally have lower yields than

long-term investments. Your principal is safe but it earns a low rate of return. The goal of investing is generally to increase net worth and work toward achieving long-term goals. Investing involves risk. For example, earnings generally are not guaranteed and you could lose some of your original investment (principle). Examples of investments include: stocks, bonds, real estate, and growth or income mutual funds.

Below are three tips for beginning investors:

- Develop an "investor's mindset". Be prepared to accept the uncertainty about investment returns and return of principal that are part of the investment

process. You cannot expect the predictability of a CD, for example, when you invest in a growth mutual fund.

- Before you invest, consider getting your financial situation under control by having: an emergency fund, some savings for short-term goals, adequate insurance, control over credit use, a retirement plan, and possibly, equity in a home.

- If you don't understand an investment or feel uncomfortable about the risk involved, don't buy it. Instead, keep learning more about investments and find a more suitable alternative.

## Home offices need special insurance

WORCESTER, Mass.—Millions of Americans who work at home unknowing risk big financial losses without a special insurance policy. "If a client visiting you slips on an icy driveway and seriously injures himself, you could be sued and lose almost everything you have," says John Heffernan, a personal insurance manager with The Hanover Insurance Company.

Homeowners policies do not cover liabilities related to an in-home business. They provide little coverage—normally \$2,500 at most—for business equipment and supplies. Many at-home entrepreneurs have thousands of dollars of worth of computers, fax machines, furniture and stock. Nor does homeowners insurance cover loss of business income. You have to temporarily close your business because a fire or other disaster damages your home, you could lose a lot of income," Heffernan warns.

Home-based entrepreneurs do not need to take these risks because affordable insurance is available. Look for an insurance policy that covers both the home and the home-based business. The policy covers loss of business income resulting from fire, theft, windstorm and other covered causes. It also covers related costs of renting office space equipment.

## Personal finance in Cyberspace-Get it on the web

Below is a list of a dozen helpful financial websites:

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension's web site: [www.rutgers.edu/~rcet](http://www.rutgers.edu/~rcet) includes fact sheets for downloading.
- Savings Bonds web site: [www.publicdebt.treasury.gov](http://www.publicdebt.treasury.gov) includes information on the current value of bonds.
- Relocation Calculator web site: [www.hometel.com/hometel/cnr/makecity](http://www.hometel.com/hometel/cnr/makecity) includes information on how to make city-to-city comparisons of living costs to help make relocation decisions.
- USA Today Money Section web site: [www.usatoday.com/money/mfront.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/mfront.htm)—provides current financial news and stock market quotes. The National Center for Financial Education web site: [www.nfcfe.org](http://www.nfcfe.org) includes information about savings and debt

issues and a form to request your credit file.

- The National Association of Investors Corp. (NAIC) web site: [www.naic.org](http://www.naic.org) provides information about how to start an investment club and how to become a NAIC member.
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) web site: [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)—maintains data base of mutual fund disclosures.
- Mutual Funds Magazine web site: [www.mfmg.com](http://www.mfmg.com)—provides useful information on mutual fund topics. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) web site: [www.irs.us/irs.gov](http://www.irs.us/irs.gov) includes

400+ downloadable tax forms.

- Social Security Administration web site: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) contains information about Social Security issues and forms.
- American Savings Education Council (ASEC) web site: [www.asec.org](http://www.asec.org) contains information about U.S. savings rates and programs designed to encourage Americans to save.

- CFP Board of Standards (CFP Board) web site: [www.cfp-board.org](http://www.cfp-board.org)—includes information about how to select a certified financial planner and the CFP credential.

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Rates and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) as of 12/1/97 are for one-to-four-family, owner-occupied homes and are subject to change without notice. A 2% down payment is required on loans from \$50,000 to \$500,000; for loans over \$500,000, a 25% down payment is required. \*P&I\* represents principal and interest payments on the loan.

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## Regina's Premedies: Public Relations Maneuvers, Tactics, & Strategies

By Regina Lynch-Hudson

Dear Regina:

Q: I am opening a new beauty salon, and boutique and want to develop a campaign that will draw patrons and that will keep everyone up to date on my new place of business. What suggestions do you have?

A: Initially, a strong and exciting "look" should be personified via the appealing images, haircuts or on your walls, as well as colorful brochures, and coupons which patrons may pick up while in the shop. The quality of your hand-outs should mirror the superior caliber of your services. In-salon fashion shows will excite the community and draw guests to your location. Involving your stylists in other fashion shows by way of volunteering hair and make-up services will lead to promotions in other fashion shows. Tie-ins with major African-American hair care manufacturers in arranging in-shop parties will add to the excitement within your shop. Because you offer a visual service—your advertising

should "show" the public what you do. A business card sized ad does not benefit a business that renders a visual service. Showcase your stylists' work through print media advertisements, and placement of salon industry articles that feature photographs of your work.

Q: I am the executive director of a non-profit organization which is implementing a door-to-door marketing campaign to introduce our community center and its programs to the surrounding community we serve. The reception has not been great when we knock on doors to distribute a survey. Can you suggest any tips to build trust?

A: Do you appear to be a stranger at the door—or is the fact that you are a community-anchored organization apparent when you drive up? Inexpensive "ice breakers" include magnetic car signs which announce who you are, as you drive around in the community you serve and give-aways such as key chains that provide the organization's logo and telephone number can be offered with the survey. Also, wearing T-shirts bearing a caring slogan that proclaims your mission

will separate you from door-to-door salesmen. In establishing an identity within the community your organization needs to send out a consistent message. Unfortunately, friendly smile isn't always enough.

Q: As CEO of a major corporation I am dismayed because we've recently been hit with a major election discrimination suit, though we actively hire and create many opportunities for minorities. Are there any public relations options we can take to offset the bad publicity?

A: Damage control or "image re-creation" can provide a brief hiatus from the negative publicity. An aggressive "awareness campaign" which cites achievements, programs, and programs which enhance the lives of your minority employees will temporarily focus the public's attention on the positive aspects of your company. Now is also the time to advertise heavily in minority-based publications, and to sponsor minority initiatives, projects and events—to demonstrate your impartiality. However, if discrimination does exist, you don't fix it with a "fluff campaign"—you fix the problem permanently by getting to the root of it!

## Free consumer guides answer questions about tax-deferred annuities

MARINA DEL REY, Calif.—Every day, planning for a financially secure retirement becomes a top priority for countless Americans. Unfortunately, one of the best tools available for building and preserving their nest eggs—the tax-deferred annuities—for many is a confusing collection of features, benefits, products and options.

The nation's leading direct-to-the-consumer shopping service for tax-advantaged insurance-based investments is now offering valuable free educational materials to consumers who want to learn more about tax-deferred annuities and other retirement savings plans.

Independent Advantage Financial (IAF), reached toll-free at 1-800-

TAX-CUTS (1-800-829-2887), specialists in providing consumers a convenient way to learn about and purchase quality insurance-based investments. Among the publications that consumers can receive without cost or obligation are:

- Special Report: Your Complete Guide To Tax-Deferred Annuities. A 32-page consumer guide detailing the key benefits and best uses of both fixed-rate and variable annuities in clear, easy-to-understand language;
- Special Report: Equity Indexed Annuities. A topical research report and consumer guide designed to provide the reader with a working knowledge of today's newest category of tax-deferred savings vehicles.

- Guaranteed Return Annuity Honor Roll and Variable Annuity Showcase. Side-by-side comparisons of the top fixed-rate and variable annuities available today. Featuring a complete benefits profile for the most popular plans from among the 40 highly-rated insurance companies that Independent Advantage Financial represents.

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# RELIGION CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**PISCATAWAY**—The Piscataway Chapter of Toastmasters International will have a meeting 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Community Center. For more information, call 732-445-6878.

**NEW YORK**—HEBREW UNION COLLEGE presents, "Ascending the Mountain of the Lord: A Glimpse into the Babylon Temple." For more info, call 212-674-5300.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**PLAINFIELD**—Joyous music for the Christmas season, and carols 8 p.m. at Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church. For more info, call 973-762-8486.

**NEW YORK**—Congregation Rodef Shalom presents "Rekindling the spirit of Debra Friedman in concert 7:50 p.m. at Congregation Rodef Shalom. For more info, call 212-362-6494.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

**NEWARK**—Joyous music for the season, carols, chants and music for Chanukah 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. For more info, call 973-762-8486.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

**PLAINFIELD**—First Annual Community In "The Messiah" will be held 7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. For more info, call 908-754-3718.

## Buyer Beware: It's Holiday Scam Time

-AARP Alerts Consumers-

BOSTON, MA — 'Tis the season to be jolly, careful and giving. But this year could end on a sour note if you're caught in a scam. During the holiday season, requests for charitable contributions increase significantly. While most are legitimate, fraudulent telemarketers use the seasonal spirit to take advantage of people's good will and generosity by ripping them off. The Department of Justice estimates that Americans are ripped off of more than \$40 billion every year by fraudulent telemarketers, who specifically target older persons.

"Most of us want to do those less fortunate than ourselves, but we need to be careful," warns AARP New Jersey State President Nancy Haynes. "The telemarketers are in the hands of a con artist," she continues, "fraudulent telemarketers are criminals practicing in the art of trickery and we should make every effort not to fall for their telephone lines."

Law enforcement agencies nationwide urge consumers to make wise decisions when donating to charities. For those who wish to make a charitable contribution, they suggest compiling a list of organizations to donate to, and then directly contact each organization for information, including a statement that describes how and where charitable contributions are used. Legitimate charities will have written materials that include their name, address and telephone number.

When individuals receive a telephone call requesting a charitable donation, this personal plan for charitable giving serves as a reference before making a donation. Be wary of telemarketers who resort to high pressure sales tactics. Law enforcement officials warn consumers never to give a telephone solicitor their credit card or bank account numbers and never send cash. Consumers need not be rushed into making a donation, but should take the time to investigate an organization, and make a wise, thoughtful decision.

"So many legitimate charities need our support and welcome the opportunity to provide us with information about their activities as well as how our contributions are used," says Ms. Haynes. "Especially during the holiday season, when fraudulent telemarketers are working overtime to take advantage of our giving spirit, we must all be very careful to make sure our donation dollars count. One of the best ways to be certain that the charitable organization asking for your support is deserving," she concludes, "is to become involved. Speak to the charity's organization, participate in events, volunteer. By contributing directly to these charities, you can be sure your money is doing the most good."

For more information, or to check out a particular charity, call the Attorney General's Office or call the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060.

AARP is the nation's leading organization for people age 50 and above. It serves them and their interests through information and education, advocacy and community services provided by a network of local chapters and experienced volunteers throughout the country. The organization also offers members a wide range of special benefits and services, including Modern Maturity magazine and the monthly Bulletin.

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## NEA President Preaches High Standards, Community Involvement to Black Clergy at Summit on Student achievement

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—National Education Association (NEA) President Bob Chase, speaking before a gathering of the nation's most influential African-American church leaders, said teachers' unions must develop much more energy to protect African-American children from dysfunctional school systems as they do to protecting their members from problem schools.

Chase delivered this message at a summit called by the National Urban League and the Congress of National Black Churches on the crisis in black student achievement. During a three-day conference in West Palm Beach, Florida, participants explored the challenges facing black children in America's schools and the changes that must take place in

public education. Chase acknowledged that too many school systems in inner-city communities are failing in their education mission, and this failure is eroding African Americans' confidence in public education. "In times past, speaking before a largely African-American audience and standing up for public education, I would be preaching to the choir," Chase said. "But I am acutely aware that I am not preaching to the choir now. I am speaking to the clergy—to men and women of great responsibility and moral authority in their communities, who increasingly have concerns and questions about the quality of their local public schools."

Chase stated the ministers for being in the forefront of America's civil

rights movement, and he argued that the right to a quality public education is the most basic civil right. "What do any of these formal civil rights mean to an African-American child or young adult who has been denied a decent education, who is functionally illiterate, who lacks even elementary math skills?" asked Chase. He insisted that without high standards for teachers and students, strict discipline policies, and high expectations for inner-city children, the right to reach their full potential "is being denied to millions of young African Americans."

Today, Chase stated, African Americans have reached a crossroads where they must choose between making discipline policies, and high expectations for all children or abandoning public education in

favor of school vouchers. Chase also encouraged public schools to create strong partnerships with parent groups, churches, businesses, and civic organizations. He praised the clergy for their work within their communities, and urged them "to be directly, personally involved in assisting teachers, reaching out to inner-city students, and lifting up troubled schools."

"In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Chase said, "I ask you to be divinely dissatisfied with school managers who refuse to manage and school boards that refuse to govern. I ask you to be divinely dissatisfied with the appalling scarification of black men entering the teaching profession."

## Carlton Burgess and Complete Praise release debut CD

BALTIMORE—Officially enter Carlton Burgess and Complete Praise into the praise and worship arena of the gospel music industry with the debut of their CD release of "Lift Up Your Heads," on Higher Ground Records. This CD features traditional and contemporary gospel compositions written by world renowned gospel composer, musician and recording artist Carlton Burgess. Garland Miche' Walker, former music director with John P. Kee and The New Life Community Choir is the co-producer of the CD.

Carlton Burgess is no stranger to gospel music listeners. He has provided the Gospel Music Workshop of America with such popular compositions as "Oh the Blood," "Cornerstone" and "After the Rain." The Grammy award winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir released "I'm Not Afraid," written by Burgess, in 1995.

Burgess formed Complete Praise in 1991 and since then has compiled some of the nation's finest vocalists to present a blend of powerful vocals to minister through song. The group has gained the respect of gospel notables even before the release of this debut album.

Burgess and Complete Praise have performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., at the Heritage Music Foundation in Los Angeles, three live performances at the Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion and on the Bobby Jones Gospel Hour of Black

## Working on a building: the creation of Bethany Baptist Church

NEWARK—In 1871 a small group of blacks gathered in the parlor of a deacon's home in downtown Newark to worship. They had been part of First Pledge Baptist Church, but sought opportunity for leadership and expression of their own heritage. With the blessings of the mother Church and assistance of Dr. Fish, the Minister at Pledge, Bethany was born. Always a downtown Church, the small congregation met in a series of rented halls, one known affectionately as "Slaughter Hall." One of its meeting houses was located where the new Prudential buildings have been erected. The congregation eventually bought a building from the Fairmount Baptist Church at 117 West Market Street. It remained at this site until 1975, where under the leadership of

Dr. James A. Scott, the ninety-five year old congregation built its first house.

Twenty-two years ago, Bethany marched from its antiquated and deteriorating edifice to a new site. There were tears and laughter and smiles of gratitude. The congregation joined in singing, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." Everyone was convinced it would not be necessary in the future to construct additional facilities.

The Church grew both in numbers and ministries and within a short time we were cramped for space. The facilities for which we break ground today symbolize both the hope this Church has for the city and confidence in the power of God to lead his people to the Promise Land.

## 'The Summit at Summit' held at Mt. Zion



Summit Bank's New Brunswick Branch Manager Aester Sibbils in cooperation with local church and community organizations recently hosted The Summit at Summit held at the Mt. Zion AME Church in New Brunswick. This series of free workshops and seminars was open to the public to help individuals and families secure financial independence. Over 120 community residents took advantage of the day long "free" workshops and seminars. Summit Branch Manager Aester Sibbils, at center, reviews credit information with Gwendolyn Adams at left, and Pastor Henry A. Hildebrand at right.

### The Journal and Guide

NOTICE, VIRGINIA SEPTEMBER 16, 1916

DR. MORRIS

ALL READY FOR NEGRO DAY AT RACE CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON

## The St. Louis Argus

ST. LOUIS, MO., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1933

Joe Louis Wades

## THE LEDGER.

Extensively Read by Afro-Americans

## Indianapolis Recorder

INDIANA'S GREATEST WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1895

## Convict Gamble

## The Chicago Defender

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, APRIL 8, 1934

## Juneteenth Reconstruction Celebration Edition

## THE HOUSTON INFORMER

HOUSTON, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1916

## DYER'S MOP VIOL

## Call Post

OHIO'S FASTEST GROWING WEEKLY

## Amsterdam News

NEW YORK

## The Weekly Tribune

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1894

## The Voice of the People

For more than 150 years, African-American newspapers have provided a voice for the black community and a forum for examining issues of critical importance to both that community and the larger society.

Today's black press sustains that legacy by highlighting the accomplishments of African-Americans and addressing such issues as the effects of crime and teen pregnancy, and the deficiencies and opportunities in education and employment. Its collective voice is capable of moving men and mountains.

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- 1884 The Philadelphia Tribune
- 1892 Baltimore Ledger (Afro-American)
- 1892 Houston Informer
- 1895 Indianapolis Recorder
- 1905 Chicago Defender
- 1909 Amsterdam News
- 1909 Norfolk Journal & Guide
- 1910 Pittsburgh Courier
- 1912 St. Louis Argus
- 1920 Cleveland Call & Post



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## Church and medical center collaborate to form new health center

By Antonia Gaines

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and St. James A.M.E. Church recently celebrated the opening of The Center for Family Life at St. James. It is the first area collaboration between a church and a major medical center.

Reverend William Watley and Ronald Del Mauro, Chief Executive Officer of Saint Barnabas Health Care System stood among a crowd of people in front of the new center as Watley stepped the blue and white ribbon to introduce the new center to the public. The crowd then went inside to view the facilities.

The center is designed to provide health care in Newark's Central Ward, a place where there are few health care providers. Centrally located on Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., the center will move to larger quarters in The St. James Prep School building on Sigman Street.

The center will be staffed by Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), who will emphasize screening, health education and prevention. A special geriatrics team will assess and treat the medical and psychological needs of seniors. Patients with complex health conditions will be referred to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and other appropriate health facilities.

The Center for Family Life at St. James came about when, during the feeding program, people would ask medical questions. In 1993, members of Beth Israel Medical Center and St. James A.M.E. Church began a series of meetings to discuss ways in which to develop a program that will suit the needs of the Newark community.

Beth Israel and St. James began to have more of a dialogue with nurse practitioners to discuss the needs of the Newark community. The center received a small grant from a United Way agency and began a program that deals with pregnant teens. "As we looked at that, we discussed doing more for the community and we looked for space for the program," said Reverend Clinton Reynolds, Executive Director of the Center for St. James. "Pastor Reverend Watley had a vision. He became committed to the idea and allocated space for the program. While we were thinking of having one examination room, he thought about having more space for the services."

We realized it was necessary to educate people on health," Reverend Reynolds said. "Darlene (Clinton's wife) became involved along with Brother Ben Evans became involved along with other people and that is how the 'Ask-A-Nurse Program' was born."

In this program there were screening services for blood pressure and diabetes, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, AIDS and HIV counseling, and geriatric house calls for senior citizens. St. James Church also has a program in which they feed the hungry. The Center for Family Life at St. James is partially funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Initiative program and the balance of operating expenses come from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. It is one of the first inner city, community based primary care centers to use the private model rather than the clinic model. In the private practice model, patients are seen by regular appointment and have specific health care providers tracking their health status. Having created roughly 20 to 25 new jobs as staff members, consultant and educators, Darlene Reynolds, Executive Director of St. James Social Services Corporation said, "We are excited about the program, having nurtured a relationship with Beth Israel since 1994. We are excited to see the first phase of partnership serve the community."

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### Commentary

## Minority women develop aggressive at health summit

Frances E. Page, R.N., M.P.H.  
U.S. Public Health Service/Office on Women's Health

I am an African-American woman who has a family history of hypertension, heart disease, and cancer, the mother of a daughter with end stage renal disease, who has had two kidney transplants, and a son with asthma; the aunt of a nephew with AIDS and a niece who died of leukemia. My story is not all that unusual. Like many other women of color, my story typifies the "litany of sorrows" that is so often the health status of minority women.

Heart disease, stroke and cancer are the leading causes of death for minority women.

African-American and Latina women have higher mortality rates from heart disease than Caucasian women.

African-American women have a significantly higher death rate from

a stroke than Caucasian women.

African-American women have a significantly high mortality rate for breast cancer, due most likely to later diagnosis.

African-American and Latinas comprise most cases of HIV/AIDS among women.

Hepatitis B is a significant problem for foreign-born Asian Pacific Islander women.

The rate of diabetes-related kidney failure is significantly higher in American Indian/Alaskan Native and Mexican American women.

The U.S. Public Health Service's Office of Women's Health, where I work, recently convened a National Women's Health Leadership Summit, drawing women's health representatives from 50 states and territories to Washington. Our agenda spanned a range of topics. Through a special workgroup on minority women's health, we discussed the health gaps between women of color and other women. From behavioral health to

prevention and education outcomes to research, we talked about why women of color face more difficult health challenges and what could we do to address them in government and in our communities.

There are no easy answers, and we knew that going in. But what we did learn is that if we are going to meet the special health challenges of minority women, the focus must be on improving health information outreach to minority communities by adding information to where women are; expanding cultural training for health care providers who work with minority women; and improving quality assurance measures to help minority women get the best health care available. But most importantly, women must talk more to each other, and that's really what the Women's Health Leadership Summit was about—generating conversations that are both formal and informal, honest and open exchanges of information, ideas, even fears and hopes and dreams.

The Office of Women's Health hoped to use the Women's Health Leadership Summit as a foundation to establish linkages between what we do in this office and what women are doing in communities across the country. Ultimately, there must be an ongoing collaboration between the community and policymakers to address the tough health issues that confront all women. But to meet the health challenges facing all women, African-American women—and other women of color—must be part of that equation. That was an integral part of the message at the Leadership Summit, and a message that I believe we must all continue to relay to the rest of the world. But the best message to come from the Summit is that no matter how huge the health challenges faced by women of color, we have always survived and will continue to survive as major contributors to helping America be all that it can be.

## 'Filmless' recording improves procedures at Heart Hospital

NEWARK—The most sophisticated technology available to monitor, diagnosis and treat numerous heart-related conditions recently became available in the Invasive Cardiovascular Laboratories at The Heart Hospital of New Jersey, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The new digital—or "filmless"—technology enables physicians to see very close-up details of the heart and nearby arteries that are much sharper, clearer and easier to read.

"Because we can see better—magnify and manipulate images—we can respond immediately," says Fred M. Azaron, M.D., Director of the Invasive Cardiovascular Laboratories.

Since there is no film to develop, the cardiologist can discuss the next steps with the patient and the family immediately, and proceed with treatment as needed, rather than wait to contact the patient later or require another hospital visit. The digital system is also safer for patients because there is less exposure to x-rays and injected dye.

Another advantage is that an accurate copy of the procedure can be recorded on a compact disc (CD) and sent to a physician at another location or facility in a very short amount of time for nearly simultaneous viewing and consultation.

Says Marie Fox, Clinical Nurse Specialist, "In the past we had to send original film to a special lab for duplication. Now, we can make a CD that physicians or patients can take with them, as well as secure previously recorded CDs for comparisons."

## Grant helps meet underserved women's health needs

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Breast Health & Mammography Center was recently awarded a grant of \$3,340 from the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's New York Race for the Cure. The grant was given in recognition of Muhlenberg's continued efforts to reach out to the underserved women of Plainfield and the surrounding community.

"Through the grant we partnered with our long-standing affiliate, the Plainfield Health Center, to co-sponsor a free breast screening, mammogram and educational program for low income, uninsured or underserved community members," explained Fannette Greer, MD, medical director of the center. "We offered the free screening program during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and it allowed women who did not have the

ability to participate in even "low cost" breast screening programs traditionally offered during this month to take charge of their health."

Muhlenberg's Breast Health & Mammography Center offers women the latest technology for annual breast exams and the detection and treatment of breast problems. A very high emphasis is placed on education, early detection and prevention.

"The support we have received from the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation helped us meet our goal to provide medical services and education to introduce the idea of prevention as a means to better health for all women," states Dr. Greer. "Unfortunately, for some, preventive health care is a 'luxury.' This grant helped us reach out to women who lack access to health care services in general."

## Call-in show focuses on working poor health care

NEWARK—The WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM news department continues its in-depth coverage of the changing face of health care in the U.S. with a call-in show on the Hospital Charity Care subsidy Program (charity care or health care for the working poor). This issue will dominate a special, expanded version of the *WBGO Journal* on Friday, December 12, 6 to 7 p.m. News Director Gavin Sutton hosts the program that features a panel of experts and offers an in-depth discussion of charity care in advance of funding renewals by the New Jersey legislature.

"Charity care recipients make too

much money for hospitalization benefits afforded to welfare recipients, yet they often are not participants in Health Maintenance Organizations like others in the working community," explains Sutton. "Health management systems and government officials are trying to figure out how to best deal with a group of people often caught in the cracks of the current system."

Since 1992 the New Jersey legislature has financed this program once every two years using emergency funds. However, advocates for the working poor are lobbying for a more permanent funding base.

## Genetic Research: The fact behind the fantasy

By Larry Lucas

If you like science fiction, you'll probably enjoy the new movie, "Gattaca." It's about a future world of "made to order" people created through genetic research. Enjoy the movie. But don't let it scare you. The real promise of genetic research is not in creating people but in finding better medicines for people. And that's not scary at all.

Our bodies are made up of cells. Inside each cell are coiled-up strands of a substance called DNA. The strands are made up of genes, which trigger the production of proteins that make us what we are. If you have brown eyes, for example, it's because your genes contain a code that regulates the production of brown eyes.

Genes also give scientists clues to the underlying causes of many diseases. That's why genetic research is so important. Once scientists find the genes that cause disease, or cause a person to be susceptible to a certain disease, pharmaceutical companies can design better drugs to treat, cure or even prevent the disease.

Genetic research is already paying off for patients. Prostate inhibitors, which are helping AIDS patients live longer, better lives were discovered through genetic research. Genetic research also led to clot-buster drugs, which have the lives of heart attack victims and help stroke patients avoid

worst after-effects of stroke. People on kidney dialysis get their energy back through an anemia medicine discovered through genetic research. And, thanks to this research, diabetes now have a new kind of insulin that gives them a better quality of life.

Genetic research has produced tests that can help people catch disease at an earlier, more treatable stage. Take colon cancer, for example. Nearly 50,000 Americans will die of colon cancer this year. In most cases, those deaths could have been avoided if the cancer had been detected earlier. Scientists now know that there are certain genes associated with colon cancer. Testing for this gene can help people who have it plan to have regular examinations to catch the cancer before it becomes deadly. And genetic research offers even greater hope for the future.

For example, scientists recently discovered the defective gene that causes most cases of glaucoma. This eye disease is the number one cause of blindness in African Americans. Blindness from glaucoma is five times more likely to happen to African Americans than to white Americans. This fact makes the discovery of the glaucoma gene particularly good news for African Americans because this knowledge may help pharmaceutical company researchers design better drugs to treat or even to prevent glaucoma. Genetic research may also lead to better treatments for Alzheimer's disease, a scourge for Parkinson's disease, more effective treatments for cancer, and many other breakthroughs.

So, if you go to see "Gattaca" this fall, but remember that it's fiction. The true story of genetic research is about cures for disease.



Dr. Jeannette Greer was on hand at a breakfast reception at Gracie Mansion to accept the grant from Donna Harover Gulliani, honorary chairman of the New York Race for the Cure and First Lady of New York City. The Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is the nation's largest private leader in research dedicated solely to breast cancer.

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# Artz enmesday

## Billboard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**NEWARK**—David Copperfield—“Dreams and Nightmares” will be performed in the Prudential Hall, NJPAC 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. For more info, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

**WESTFIELD**—Mid-day Musicals present Quartetto Vite (String Quartet) free, at the First Congregational Church. For more info, call 233-2434.

**NEW YORK**—Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater invites students to attend live performances Tues. Wed. Thursday between 12 noon and 6 p.m. For more info, call 212-581-1212.

**NEW YORK**—Pianist, Joanne Braxton and Cecil McBee on bass will perform at Knickerbocker Bar & Grill. For more info, call 212-225-8490.

**PRINCETON**—A Christmas Carol performance will be held at the McCarter Theatre through Dec. 28. For more info, call 528-653-8500.

**BROOKLYN**—The Brooklyn Academy of Music's 1997 next wave festival's 15th anniversary season will be performed 7:30 p.m. at the BAM Majestic Theatre. For more info, call 718-365-4129.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**NEWARK**—David Copperfield—“Dreams and Nightmares” will be performed in the Prudential Hall, NJPAC 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. For more info, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

**NEW YORK**—Saxophonist Jimmy Heath leads ensemble with Milt Jackson, James Moody, Slide Hampton and others in program of small group bebop masterpieces at 8 p.m. in Alice Tully Hall. For more info, call 212-875-5599.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—A Christmas Pop program featuring the Stetson Hall University Choir and special guest vocalist Jubilant Sykes at 8 p.m. For more info, call 1-800-ALLEGRO.

**NORTH BRANCH**—A Jazz ensemble concert will be held 8 p.m. at Raritan Valley Community College, Wayne Township. For more info, call 908-725-3420.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

**MONTCLAIR**—Charles Dickens' “A Christmas Carol” will be performed at

the Memorial Auditorium in Montclair State University. For more info, call 201-655-7689.

**NORTH BRANCH**—The Nutcracker will be performed at The Edward Nash Theatre, Raritan Valley Community College. For more info, call 908-253-6881.

**NEW YORK**—The Water Street Blues Band will perform at Manny's Car Wash from 9:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. For more info, call 212-369-0789.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**NEWARK**—Celebration of the Holiday Season featuring Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, concert and party at 1:30 p.m. at NJPAC. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—A Celtic Christmas with Ensemble Galilei will be held at The State Theatre at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-246-7469.

**NEW YORK**—The Roxy Perry Blues Band will perform at Manny's Car Wash from 9:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. For more info, call 212-369-0789.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

**SUMMIT**—The Concord Singers of Summit presents a holiday concert 4 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church. For more info, call 908-221-7236.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

**NEWARK**—George Winston performs in the Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m., in the Prudential Hall of the NJPAC. For more info, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

**NEW YORK**, NY—The Forces of Nature Dance Company, celebrates Kwanzaa and its seven principles of Nguzo Saba at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-650-7148.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

**JERSEY CITY**—Kwanza celebration will be held 8 p.m. at the Miller Branch Library (Cultural Arts Center). For more info, call 917-57-0505.

**NEW YORK**, NY—The Forces of Nature Dance Company celebrates Kwanzaa and its seven principles of Nguzo Saba at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-650-7148.

## WBGO's holiday program makes the season bright

NEWARK—WBGO Jazz 88.3 has a stocking full of holiday programming to enhance everyone's holiday cheer, starting with the offering of special jazz programming on Christmas day, and featuring a year-end review of Jazz.

At 4 p.m. on Christmas Day, Gary Larson, famed cartoonist and guitar lover, hosts *Jazz: Guitar Christmas*. The program features some of America's finest jazz guitar masters in a program of holiday favorites. Jazz Piano Christmas continues the spirit of the season at 5 p.m. The program features master jazz pianists on classic holiday tunes. At 6 p.m. tune-in for a holiday drama *Riffs of the May-Jazz: A Jazz Play No. 1*. Using a combination of words and music, the play chronicles the character and history of early jazz through the life and experiences of a jazz singer.

The New Years Eve celebration begins at 8 p.m. with Michael Borne's 88.97, *A Year of Jazz: in Review*. Borne takes a look at jazz milestones of the past year, including highlights of WBGO's broadcasts.

## “Soul Train Christmas Starfest” CD

Greeting the 1997 holiday season with soulful joy to the world, Epic records proudly announces the November 11 release of its stellar *Soul Train Christmas Starfest* album.

A beautiful holiday salute from the longest running Black music show on television, and its famous creator/producer/host Don Cornelius, the *Soul Train Christmas Starfest* CD is highlighted by

understanding recorded performances by Luther Vandross, Pat LaBelle, Simone Hines, Rome, Immature, Boyz II Men, James Brown, the Isley Brothers, AZ, Yet, Total Commitment, Kirk Franklin and the Family, New Edition and more. Simone Hines, Epic's dynamic new rising R&B/pop star, contributes a prime example of the album's quality, depth and excellence. Featuring the Hezekiah Walker choir, Simone's song-stopping “God Bless The Dreamer,” reflects the heart, soul and true spirit of Christmas. And representing its more sensual side, R&B heartthrob Rome's romantic rendition of “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” makes the most of any mistletoe moment.

In all, the *Soul Train Christmas Starfest* CD is a global gift of 16 treasured year-life tracks, lovingly wrapped in the R&B spirit, with a hint of hip-hop flair. In addition to the two special cuts highlighted above, the song roster consists of: “Let It Snow,” already a Boyz II Men holiday classic; “Every Year, Every Christmas,” offering the soothing, tender tones of Luther Vandross; “O Come All Ye Faithful,” a spirit filled contribution from AZ; Yet, “Silent Night,” an upbeat, happy holiday version from those fierce funky divas, En Vogue; “Special Gift,” a sensual Isley Brothers featuring Ronald Isley X-rated (as in X-Mas) slow-jam; “The Christmas Song,” brilliantly sung by Natalie Cole, whose dad, Nat King Cole made it the R&B holiday tradition; “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town,” a jolly R&B/hip-hop to drive teen idols Immature; “Silver Bells,” cool and funky as a December 25 snowfall, and sung by Sony50's talented Total Commitment; “This Christmas (Hang All The Mistletoe),” living legend Pat LaBelle's sweetest send up of Donny Hathaway's signature Christmas song; “Somebody At Christmas,” Stevie Wonder's timeless world-peace holiday composition; “It's Christmas (All Over The World),” an early New Edition cut, harmony filled and heavenly felt; “Santa Claus Goes To The City,” a funky St. Nick track from the Godfather of Soul himself, James Brown; “There's No Christmas Without You,” a rather shaking new-gospel gift from Kirk Franklin and The Family; and, concluding on another high note, “Give Love On Christmas Day,” which accents its positive, universal message by showcasing Johnny Gill's powerful voice and honest emotional delivery.

This holiday season's perfect stocking stuffie, put the *Soul Train Christmas Starfest* CD on the top of your gift list.

## Diggin' CHICO DeBARGE

NEW YORK—Chico DeBARGE has released his Kedar Entertainment/Universal Records retro-soul concept album *Long Time No See* after an involuntary six-year absence from the music scene. The lead single “Jaggin' Me,” is capturing national attention with the riveting video clip which features actress Nia Long. “Jaggin' Me” is currently a Top 10 clip on BET and is the number eight R&B video at The Box.

Ten years ago, Chico DeBARGE, the youngest of the talented DeBARGE family (the R&B pop sensations Switch and DeBARGE), had a promising musical future with the success of the hit single, “Tik Tok Me Baby” released on Motown Records. Just as his career was getting off the ground, DeBARGE was arrested for drug trafficking and was sentenced to six years in federal prison. His six-year term had a profound effect on him personally and musically as most of the material on *Long Time No See* was inspired by his experiences in jail. “I didn't make the best choices in some areas of my life,” DeBARGE explains. “I am not proud of spending time in jail, but I want people to see through my music that I came out a productive, more positive person,” he adds.

Request magazine proclaims, “Those who miss the soul wail of Marvin Gaye are tired of waiting for Prince to regain his audacious pop equilibrium can take solace in *Long Time No See*.” Simultaneously street wise and romantic, *Long Time No See* pairs Chico with brother El (leader of the singing group DeBARGE and platinum-selling solo artist) on several tracks on the album including “Jaggin' Me” and “End Love.” The title track “Long Time No See” features the esteemed Wab Wab Watson on guitar. The album also contains an inspired cover of Marvin Gaye's classic “Trouble Man,” and recasts “What's Goin' On” into “Love Shift Tied,” a passionate song about a man who returns from prison to find that his girlfriend has moved on with her life.



## The Whispers sing ‘Babyface’



The Whispers have been making music since 1969.

In an age where many records are cooked up in marketing media, it's a rare pleasure to come across a collection that has its roots in something real and honest and down right soulful. Such a collection is the Interscope Records debut from one of the music industry's most beloved and enduring vocal groups, The Whispers. Song Book Vol. II: The Songs of Babyface.

In a perfect marriage of singers and songs, Songbook Vol. II: The Songs of Babyface takes The Whispers, who have been making music and hits for nearly three decades, creatively back full circle to their early days at the seminal Solar Records label, where The Whispers first joined forces with a fledgling singer/songwriter named Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds and his then partner LA Reid. The songs that Face and Reid gave The Whispers, “Rock Steady,” would become a top ten pop and number one R&B hit and would jump-start both Face and Reid's careers. “We all got our start back there at ‘Solar,’” explains Walter Scott, one of The Whispers' founding members and its lead tenor, “but our paths kind of went different ways. So we lost the opportunity to continue recording with Babyface. Since then we'd all wanted to do a selection of his songs and finally, the right time came for that record.”

On this CD, The Whispers revisit songs that have become a part of our musical language and perhaps more importantly, songs that The Whispers have themselves enjoyed. “In a nutshell, the songs that we selected were favorites of ours. In fact there were so many favorites that we just couldn't

do them all! There were two things we had in mind when we began to do this CD. One, that we liked the songs, but we wanted to make sure that our favorites were also in our vein. The great thing,” Walter laughs, “is that Babyface writes in our vein.”

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  - ★ All God's Children
  - ★ Newark Saturday Performing Arts Community
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  - ★ Montclair YMCA Youth Symphonic Ensemble and English Hand Bell Ringers and others



Tel: NJ Transit line Newark Penn Station or Broad Street Station then enjoy a ride on “The Loop” to Military Park. Following the program, “Loop It” to The Newark Museum to see its major exhibition: Crowning Glory: Images of the Virgin in the Arts of Portugal.

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WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST  
RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES  
AUTHORITY  
OXFORD AREA STP  
SOLIDS HANDLING  
IMPROVEMENTS  
CONTRACT NO. 97-3**

### ADDENDUM NO. 1

Notice is hereby given that Addendum No. 1 for Contract No. 97-3, Solids Handling Improvements is being provided to prospective bidders of record and is available at the offices of Cemerio & Planaro, P.C., 2000 Englewood Avenue, Suite 203 North, North Plainfield, New Jersey 07061.

Bidders are to comply with all other provisions of the original Notices to Bidders.

By order of the  
Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities  
Authority

Donald Nice  
Secretary \$70.20

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**THE CITY OF EAST ORANGE,  
NEW JERSEY  
SEEKS QUALIFIED DEVELOPERS  
FOR  
THE BRICK CHURCH  
REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

The City of East Orange Redevelopment Agency (EOA) is seeking qualified developers to undertake a MIXED-USE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT within the BRICK CHURCH URBAN RENOVATION AREA. The defined redevelopment area covers approximately 9.5 acres in the heart of downtown East Orange. EOA is seeking qualified developers for Proposal (RFP) packages will be made available approximately December 8, 1997. Copies of the Request and pertinent data may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. at the office of the City's Department of Policy Planning & Development, Division of Economic Development, at 280 South Harrison Street, Suite 202, East Orange, NJ 07016, or by mail upon written requests therefor. Responses to this Request for Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 P.M., February 27, 1998 pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth therein. All interested parties with specific inquiries are invited to telephone or write to: Joseph I. Donald, Project Coordinator, Division of Economic Development, at the aforementioned address. Telephone (973) 255-0928.

\$78.00

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF  
PLAINFIELD  
510 East Front Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998  
REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS**

January 21  
February 18  
March 15  
April 15  
May 20  
June 17  
July 15  
September 18  
October 21  
November 18  
December 16

Regular Board Meeting is held the Third Wednesday of each month except in the case of a holiday, in which case, the meeting is held the next day.

Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and are held at Richmond Towers, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey except on March 18, June 17 and September 16, they are held at the Liberty Village Community Room, 205 Liberty Street, Plainfield, New Jersey.

By order of the  
MONTCLAIR is an EEO  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**HELP WANTED  
PARKING ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICER  
FULL TIME/TEMPORARY**

The Montclair Police Department is seeking a full-time temporary Parking Enforcement Officer to patrol parking related areas for the purpose of enforcing meter regulations. Duties include monitoring records of violations, issuing parking tickets, parking enforcement, record keeping, citation, report preparation, and enforcement of parking meters, signs, etc. Discussed disqualifying candidates must be able to work on Saturdays and have a valid drivers license. Apply Township of Montclair, Human Resources Department, 205 Cameron Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042. Closing date Friday, December 12, 1997.

MONTCLAIR is an EEO  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**RECORDING ENGINEER**  
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Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO 1-504-646-1700 DEPT NJ-6155

### LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Morris (hereinafter called the Authority), in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administrative Offices of the Authority, located at 31 East St., Morris, NJ, on Monday, January 13, 1998 at 10:00 a.m., prevailing time. All bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time for: **EXTENDING SERVICES - PROJECT NOS. NJ023-201 THROUGH 006 - FAMILY & SENIOR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS** for a single complete contract. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids & to reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid, not to exceed \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars).

The Contract Documents are on file & can be obtained at the Administrative Offices of the Authority. **DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE MAILED.**

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance & Labor & Material Payment Bond to the Authority in the full amount of the Contract in such form as the Authority may prescribe & with such Sureties as they may approve.

All Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the Laws of the State of New Jersey must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 127, which pertains to "Non-Discriminatory & Affirmative Action Policy," NJ 1977, c. 253, which relates to a Statement of Corporate Ownership.

David Gardner  
Executive Director \$69.70

**NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY  
AUTHORITY  
GARDEN STATE PARKWAY  
WOODBRIIDGE, NEW JERSEY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority for:

A MINORITY BUSINESS SET ASIDE  
PROCUREMENT

COMPUTER SUPPLIES  
ON DECEMBER 19, 1997 AT 3:00PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority from vendors qualifying as New Jersey Minority Businesses pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 1983, Chapter 482, N.J.A. 52-32-17 et. seq. Only those businesses which meet the requirements and are qualified by the Department of Commercial and Economic Development may submit bid proposals.

Bids for the above will be received in the Division of Central Purchasing on the date(s) and time(s) specified above and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders are required to comply with requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127.

Bid Forms, Specifications, and Terms and Conditions are on file in the Division of Central Purchasing, New Jersey Highway Authority, Garden State Parkway, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095 and may be obtained between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

Angela Corio  
Director of Central Purchasing  
NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY \$84.50

### LEGAL NOTICE

**ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION  
110 SOUTH GROVE STREET, EAST ORANGE, N.J.**  
Please take notice that the Added/Oral appeal Hearings will take place on Tuesday, December 16, 1997 at 9:30 a.m.

George F. Librizzi, Tax Administrator \$23.40

**INVITATION TO BID  
APARTMENTS RENOVATION FOR  
ELMWOOD GARDENS  
AND INSTALLATION OF THREE (3)  
NEW PLAYGROUNDS**

### FOR

**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF  
PLAINFIELD  
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY**

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD will receive an overall lump sum bid for the renovation of 120 apartment units at Elmwood Gardens, the construction of two new playgrounds Elmwood Gardens, and the construction of one new playground at West End Gardens, all being located in Plainfield, NJ.

Bidders may obtain copies of plans and specifications for the above-mentioned work at the main office of The Housing Authority of Plainfield, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, at a cost of fifty (50) dollars per set which is non-refundable with checks made payable to The Housing Authority of Plainfield, U.S. Government Bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and satisfactory sureties in an amount equal to ten (10%) percent of the bid price, but not in excess of \$20,000 must be submitted with the bid.

An on-site inspection for interested bidders will be held at 10:00 a.m. at Elmwood Gardens located at 532 West End Street, Plainfield, New Jersey on December 15, 1997.

The eight (8) documents listed below comprise the Bid Package. Each document must be properly executed, submitted and included in Bid Package to comply with the requirements of the Invitation To Bid.

- 1) Proposal Form
- 2) Bid Bond
- 3) Statement of Stockholders or Partners
- 4) Affidavit of Non-Collusion
- 5) Consent of Surety
- 6) Affirmative Action Program
- 7) HUD Form 5200-USA FHHA, Previous Participation Certification
- 8) HUD Form 529A - Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of Bidders

One original and one copy of the Bid Package must be submitted in a single sealed envelope. The name and address of the bidder and the wording, "BID ENCLOSED", shall be placed on the outside of the sealed envelope containing the Bid Package original and copy.

Bid Packages will be received at The Housing Authority of Plainfield located 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060, no later than 2:00 p.m., January 8, 1998, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Housing Authority of Plainfield reserves the right to waive any informalities in any bid or all bids, or reject any and all bids, apply to make such decisions, may be in the Authority's best interest in accordance with the law but shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without consent of The Housing Authority of Plainfield. The successful bidder, and higher subcontractor(s), if any, must comply with the Davis Bacon Wage Rates, the Affirmative Action Plan, and the requirements of P.L. 1987 c. 217, Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), will be placed full opportunity to bid and will not be subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender or national origin in consideration of an award.

**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD**  
510  
Carolyn A. Reese  
Executive Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
\$196.00

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or call  
908-754-3400**

# CLASSIFIEDS

<p><b>HELP WANTED</b> <b>PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER</b> <b>FULL TIME/TEMPORARY</b></p> <p>The Montclair Police Department is seeking a full-time temporary Parking Enforcement Officer to patrol parking related areas for the purpose of enforcing meter regulations. Duties include monitoring records of violations, issuing parking tickets, parking enforcement, record keeping, citation, report preparation, and enforcement of parking meters, signs, etc. Discussed disqualifying candidates must be able to work on Saturdays and have a valid drivers license. Apply Township of Montclair, Human Resources Department, 205 Cameron Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042. Closing date Friday, December 12, 1997.</p> <p>MONTCLAIR is an EEO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER</p> <p><b>RECORDING ENGINEER</b> Radio/TV/News/News/TV Show Multimedia/Digital/Video/Film All ages. No experience. On-the-Job Training in local Recording Studios &amp; Radio/TV Stations. P/T Nights, Weekends. Call recorded line for FREE Video, 1-800-295-4433</p> <p><b>HELP WANTED</b> Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO 1-504-646-1700 DEPT NJ-6155</p>	<p><b>HELP WANTED</b> <b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS TECHNICIAN</b></p> <p>The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge (WHA) is seeking applicants for the position of Building &amp; Grounds Technician. Must have knowledge and ability to conduct work, grounds keeping, apartment turnover to include painting, landscaping, patching, plumbing, electrical, and other repairs. Applications are available at 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ 07095 and must be received by Friday, December 19, 1997. Applicants with a Black Seal license will receive total consideration. Position pays \$10.00/hr. with excellent benefits. Applicant must pass police, physical and drug screening requirements. For more information, call 634-2750. WHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.</p> <p><b>**Graphic Designer**</b></p> <p>Must know QuarkXpress and Photoshop on PC or MAC platforms and have two years experience working with Newspaper layout.</p> <p>Send resume to:  City News Personnel PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060</p>	<p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p> <p>Need extra money? Want to let people know what's going on in your area? Can you write? Do you like to take pictures?</p> <p><b>City News wants you on its editorial team..</b></p> <p>Freelance positions in all areas, including News, East Orange, Plainfield, Elizabeth, Hillside, Hackensack, Englewood, Montclair, New Brunswick, Asbury Park, Ocean, Red Bank, Paterson and more.</p> <p>Send a resume and a writing sample and a list of 10 story ideas you'd like to write about or photograph to: City News Personnel, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060.</p> <p><b>*Photographer*</b></p> <p>Freelance photographers wanted to cover events throughout New Jersey. Reimbursed for travel expenses. Must be responsible. Developing not necessary. We supply film. Willing to work with new photographers.</p> <p>Send resume and preferred work hours to:  City News Personnel PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060.</p>	<p><b>APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>LONG BRANCH ** SPECIAL **</b> 13TH MONTH FREE</p> <p><b>PISCATAWAY</b> 1 BEDROOM</p> <p><b>PRICES START AT</b> STUDIO \$501. 1 BR \$625 &amp; 3 BR \$725 HARDWOOD FLOORS, BALCONY/PATIOS, INCLUDES HEAT, HW NO PETS CALL MON-FRI 9-5</p> <p><b>PLEASURE</b> BAY APTS Located right on the Shoreway Plaza</p> <p><b>732-222-7714</b> *On 1 BR only Equal Housing Opportunity</p> <p><b>PLAINFIELD</b> \$590 1 BEDROOM</p> <p>2 BDRM TOWNHOUSE LELAND GARDEN 1227 Front St. (Bordering North Plainfield)</p> <p>Privacy ++ St. Ct. Discount Avail. 15 acre parklike landscaped 1/2 mile from Rte 22 keeps you close to everything, while maintaining a PRIVATE RELAXING atmosphere. Heat and hot water included in rental. No pets. Offer expires 11/30/97.</p> <p><b>908-756-2339</b> Equal Housing Opportunity</p>	<p><b>RENT YOUR APARTMENT</b></p> <p><b>THRU CITY NEWS...CALL</b></p> <p><b>908-754-3400 AND ASK FOR</b></p> <p><b>OUR LOW RATES</b></p> <p><b>WE WISH YOU A HAPPY</b></p> <p><b>AND SAFE</b></p> <p><b>HOLIDAY...DON'T</b></p> <p><b>FORGET TO</b></p> <p><b>BUCKLE UP AND</b></p> <p><b>DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE</b></p> <p><b>Teacher, educator wanted</b></p> <p>To write and edit a 4-page, monthly National Teacher's Guide. At least two years of teaching experience necessary, preferably grades 6 and up. Send resume to: Y Teacher's Guide, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060</p>
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## Local Briefs

### President Bush Attends State Volunteer Summit

TRENTON—Former President George Bush addressed the New Jersey Summit on Volunteerism last week. Mr. Bush stressed the importance of volunteerism and will take in expanding volunteerism and building volunteer programs to meet the needs of New Jersey's children.

President Bush delivered an important message to a full gathering of attendees during the luncheon program at the new Atlantic City Convention Center. The Summit is a follow-up to the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, held this past April in Philadelphia. "George Bush has been a sincere and active supporter of volunteerism for decades. It's an honor to our state that President Bush felt so strongly about attending the New Jersey Summit on Volunteerism," said Linda Glendon, Director of the Governor's Office of Volunteerism.

### 1998 Girl Scout Calendars Now Available

MONTCLAIR—The Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties has announced the start of its 1998 Girl Scout calendar sale, under the theme of leadership values which will take place through December.

The annual calendar sale serves as one of the education projects that girls participate in throughout the year. The sales provides an opportunity for girls to develop and practice marketing skills. "In addition, girls are earning money for their troops, girls learn practical skills such as goal-setting, teamwork, public speaking and money management through the sale," said Betty Fisher, a volunteer calendar sales manager.

### Older Women's League featured on cable

ELIZABETH—Vintage Views, a Union County cable television program for seniors, will review the work being done by the Older Women's League (OWL) to encourage women to enjoy their future, and live in old age by taking charge of the present.

"OWL is a national grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of middle-age and older women through research, advocacy and education of the public policy makers about their needs and concerns," said Union County Freeholders Edwin Force, liaison to the Advisory Council on Aging.

### County seeks preservation nomination

ELIZABETH—The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, is accepting nomination for the annual Historic Preservation Commemorations to be awarded in 1998.

Nominations are solicited from the public and must be submitted by December 10. "Participation in the commemorations program is one of the many ways to discover historic Union County," said Michael Lapolaha, County Manager. For information, please call 908-558-2550.

### Caldwell College helps needy through giving

CALDWELL—Students and staff at Caldwell College will help to make the holiday season a little brighter for pregnant mothers at area shelters through their annual Giving Trees Project.

Three Christmas trees were erected on campus last month and adorned with gift suggestions ranging from diapers to warm baby clothing and toys. Students and staff take a tag from the tree, purchase a suggested gift, wrap it, and place it under the tree by December 19 for delivery to the Several Sources Foundation in Ramsey.

Each year the project helps the foundation provide 2500 pregnant women, new mothers and their newborns with food, counseling and financial and housing assistance.

The shelter serves pregnant women and new mothers from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut up to one year after the infant is born. In addition, the women, some of whom have been abused, also receive motherhood, job and educational training.

"Not only individuals can buy a gift, but classes, dorm rooms, offices, athletic teams and friends can chip in and purchase a gift, many of which are small such as baby bottles, diapers and infant toys," according to Father Michael Oker, Caldwell College director of campus ministry.

After students and staff place a gift under the giving tree, they are invited to take a paper nativity or angel ornament from the tree to make a part of their own Christmas.

"This ornament," Oker said, "will serve as a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas. Not only will you make the Christmas of some child or mother brighter, but your own Christmas will be made more special by your act of generosity."

## Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity to award college scholarships to outstanding minority teens

EDISON—The Chi Sigma Alumni Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. honored seven outstanding minority high school males at the 25th Anniversary of its John R. Memorial Scholarship Ball recently.

The annual fund-raiser recognizes high school graduates from around the northern New Jersey region with college scholarships. The young men receiving scholarship this year are:

- Daniel Bailey, St. Benedict's Prep, Newark
- Kaja Brown, East Side High School, Newark
- Uguochukwu Nwachukwu, University High, Newark
- Kelechi Oker, Henry Synder High, Newark
- David Reeves, Barringer High, Newark

Newark

• George James, Jr., Hackensack High, Hackensack

• Romaine Lewis, Presently attending St. Paul Hall University, South Orange

Recent recipients are now students at a long list of prestigious colleges and universities such as Morehouse, North Carolina A&T, Columbia, MIT, Notre Dame and Princeton.

The Northern New Jersey-based fraternal and community service organization also sponsors an award winning college funding program. Called the Beta Sigma Clubs for youngsters, these groups are organized at Clifford J. Scott, Irvington and Plainfield High Schools as well as Myrtle Avenue, Thurgood Marshall and Union Avenue Middle Schools in Irvington.



Alonzo C. Jackson, Phi Beta Sigma Education Chairman, poses with John R. Memorial Scholarship recipients: Kelechi Oker of Rutgers—Camden, Uguochukwu Nwachukwu of Rutgers—New Brunswick, David Reeves, who is now attending Jersey City State University, and Kaja Brown, who is a student at Rutgers.

## 'Newark Do Something' works with First Night Newark



Brett Cook-Disney, a local artist, standing, has been commissioned to create this year's "First Night" sculpture. With him are Debra Flagg, Newark Preservation and Landmark's Committee, and the sculpture's junior apprentices Johnny Conner, Wendy Conner, Karina Mena and Jimmy Prado.

NEWARK—First Night Newark, an initiative of Mayor Sharpe James and the Newark Municipal Council's Quality of Life Committee, plans to ring in the new year with its community wide celebration of the arts, on December 31. At the heart of First Night Newark is its resolution sculpture—a marriage of art and good intentions.

As First Night Newark is a community celebration, its resolution sculpture is about communal resolutions; promises which members of the community will make for the good of the community. Framed as new years the sculpture is the foundation for this year's sculpture will depict the dynamism of the population of each of Newark's five wards as seen through the eyes of its young people in a public art piece.

A first for the city, First Night Newark is an alcohol-free event which will feature music and song, dance, theater, magic and various artforms culminating in a spectacular fireworks display along the Passaic riverfront. An interactive walk-a-bout suitable for the whole family, this event is intended to showcase the works of artists and performers from the local Essex County area and beyond, and is expected to draw thousands to Newark's downtown business and cultural district.

With the assistance of the Do Something group as junior apprentices, Artist Brett Cook-Disney will select and paint the "life like" portraits and resolutions of a representative sample of at least 10 people who are the quintessential embodiment of Newark's rich and diverse cultures. Approximately eight feet by 90 feet, Newark's Communal Resolution Sculpture will be mounted in Newark, December on the large wall overlooking the outdoor plaza of the Public Service Energy and Gas building on Broad Street.

As a result of their collaborative efforts, the sculpture will feature the oral histories and painted portraits rendered from Polaroid snapshots of various people the students chose for their positive contributions to their neighborhoods. These oral histories will document the concerns, hopes and expectations each has for the wards in which they live.

A major attraction along the First Night Newark look, the sculpture will be constructed into five segments that correspond with each ward. During the festivities, visitors to the resolution sculpture will be invited to write their community resolutions for 1998. Volunteers and students will be on hand to take Polaroid snapshots and mount the festival-goers resolutions along the side of their neighborhood building upon the sculpture created by the young people. At the end of the night, each segment will be removed and later taken to its respective ward to stand as an affirming monument of promise and a testament to the vested interest of residents in their neighborhoods and in the city of Newark.

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## Newark 'Lights Up' for the holidays December 11

NEWARK—Thousands of holiday shoppers, theatergoers, and city and area families will converge on Military Park in Newark Thursday, December 11, for the beginning of a new tradition, the Newark City Lights Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Spectacular.

Caroling children, live entertainment, celebrity appearances and a 51-foot tree decorated with 4,200 glistening lights and hundreds of ribbon bows will make the afternoon truly special.

The "magic" will begin at 4 p.m. with simultaneous performances by the Newark Brass Quintet in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's driveway across the street from Military Park, and the Elizabeth High School Wind Ensemble in the Park. At 4:15, the ensemble will lead crowds from NJPAC to the tree. Holiday entertainment will be provided in the park and Theater Square into the evening.

The actual tree lighting is scheduled for 5:20 p.m. Newark's New Jersey will broadcast the entire program live from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The musical program, produced by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, will also feature the New Jersey Children's Choir, the Jazz Institute of New Brunswick, the Newark School of Music, and the Montclair YMCA Youth Symphonic Ensemble and English Hand Bell Fingers.

"The lighting of a tree, music in the air and thousands of people of all races joined together in celebration in our downtown area is a testimony to the revitalization that is occurring today in Newark both economically and in the spirit of our community," said Mayor Sharpe James.

Santa, arriving on Newark's LOOP shuttle system, will join the Mayor in "flipping the switch" to illuminate the Newark City Lights centerpiece. The tree will remain on display throughout the holiday season, according to Danny Gale, executive director of Connection Newark, a public-private partnership which coordinates the event.

This holiday celebration is easy to reach by public transportation. Take NJ TRANSIT into Newark Penn Station or Broad Street Station, then enjoy a ride on the LOOP to Military Park. Drivers have been asked to park in any one of the many surface lots on Park Place, Mulberry Street or McCarter Highway.



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